

168.1 **ARTICLE 3**

168.2 **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

168.3 Section 1. **[116J.659] CANNABIS INDUSTRY STARTUP FINANCING GRANTS.**

168.4 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of employment and economic

168.5 development shall establish CanStartup, a program to award grants to nonprofit corporations

168.6 to fund loans to new cannabis microbusinesses and to support job creation in communities

168.7 where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity applicants.

168.8 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the

168.9 meanings given.

168.10 (b) "Cannabis microbusiness" means a cannabis business that meets the requirements

168.11 of section 342.28.

168.12 (c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of employment and economic development.

168.13 (d) "Industry" means the legal cannabis industry in the state of Minnesota.

168.14 (e) "New business" means a legal cannabis business that has been in existence for three

168.15 years or less.

168.16 (f) "Program" means the CanStartup grant program.

168.17 (g) "Social equity applicant" means a person who meets the qualification requirements

168.18 in section 342.16.

168.19 Subd. 3. **Grants.** (a) The commissioner shall establish a revolving loan account to make

168.20 grants under the CanStartup program.

168.21 (b) The commissioner must award grants to nonprofit corporations through a competitive

168.22 grant process.

168.23 (c) To receive grant money, a nonprofit corporation must submit a written application

168.24 to the commissioner using a form developed by the commissioner.

168.25 (d) In awarding grants under this subdivision, the commissioner shall give weight to

168.26 whether the nonprofit corporation:

168.27 (1) has a board of directors that includes citizens experienced in business and community

168.28 development, new business enterprises, and creating jobs for people facing barriers to

168.29 education or employment;

168.30 (2) has the technical skills to analyze projects;

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174.26 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of employment and economic

174.27 development shall establish CanStartup, a program to award grants to nonprofit corporations

174.28 to fund loans to new businesses in the legal cannabis industry and to support job creation

174.29 in communities where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity applicants.

174.30 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the

174.31 meanings given.

174.32 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of employment and economic development.

175.1 (c) "Industry" means the legal cannabis industry in the state of Minnesota.

175.2 (d) "New business" means a legal cannabis business that has been in existence for three

175.3 years or less.

175.4 (e) "Program" means the CanStartup grant program.

175.5 (f) "Social equity applicant" means a person who meets the qualification requirements

175.6 in section 342.15.

175.7 Subd. 3. **Grants.** (a) The CanStartup revolving loan account is established in the special

175.8 revenue fund. Money in the account, including interest, is appropriated to the commissioner

175.9 to make grants under the CanStartup program.

175.10 (b) The commissioner must award grants to nonprofit corporations through a competitive

175.11 grant process.

175.12 (c) To receive grant money, a nonprofit corporation must submit a written application

175.13 to the commissioner using a form developed by the commissioner.

175.14 (d) In awarding grants under this subdivision, the commissioner shall give weight to

175.15 whether the nonprofit corporation:

175.16 (1) has a board of directors that includes citizens experienced in business and community

175.17 development, new business enterprises, and creating jobs for people facing barriers to

175.18 education or employment;

175.19 (2) has the technical skills to analyze projects;

169.1 (3) is familiar with other available public and private funding sources and economic
169.2 development programs;

169.3 (4) can initiate and implement economic development projects;

169.4 (5) can establish and administer a revolving loan account;

169.5 (6) can work with job referral networks that assist people facing barriers to education
169.6 or employment; and

169.7 (7) has established relationships with communities where long-term residents are eligible
169.8 to be social equity applicants.

169.9 The commissioner shall make grants that will assist new cannabis microbusinesses.

169.10 (e) A nonprofit corporation that receives a grant under the program must:

169.11 (1) establish a commissioner-certified revolving loan account for the purpose of making
169.12 eligible loans; and

169.13 (2) enter into an agreement with the commissioner that the commissioner shall fund
169.14 loans that the nonprofit corporation makes to new cannabis microbusinesses. The
169.15 commissioner shall review existing agreements with nonprofit corporations every five years
169.16 and may renew or terminate an agreement based on that review. In making this review, the
169.17 commissioner shall consider, among other criteria, the criteria in paragraph (d).

169.18 Subd. 4. **Loans to businesses.** (a) The criteria in this subdivision apply to loans made
169.19 by nonprofit corporations under the program.

169.20 (b) Loans must be used to support a new cannabis microbusiness in the legal cannabis
169.21 industry. Priority must be given to loans to businesses owned by individuals who are eligible
169.22 to be social equity applicants and businesses located in communities where long-term
169.23 residents are eligible to be social equity applicants.

169.24 (c) Loans must be made to cannabis microbusinesses that are not likely to undertake the
169.25 project for which loans are sought without assistance from the program.

169.26 (d) The minimum state contribution to a loan is \$2,500 and the maximum is either:

169.27 (1) \$50,000; or

169.28 (2) \$150,000, if state contributions are matched by an equal or greater amount of new
169.29 private investment.

170.1 (e) Loan applications given preliminary approval by the nonprofit corporation must be
170.2 forwarded to the commissioner for approval. The commissioner must give final approval
170.3 for each loan made by the nonprofit corporation under the program.

175.20 (3) is familiar with other available public and private funding sources and economic
175.21 development programs;

175.22 (4) can initiate and implement economic development projects;

175.23 (5) can establish and administer a revolving loan account;

175.24 (6) can work with job referral networks that assist people facing barriers to education
175.25 or employment; and

175.26 (7) has established relationships with communities where long-term residents are eligible
175.27 to be social equity applicants.

175.28 The commissioner shall make grants that will assist a broad range of businesses in the legal
175.29 cannabis industry, including the processing and retail sectors.

175.30 (e) A nonprofit corporation that receives a grant under the program must:

176.1 (1) establish a commissioner-certified revolving loan account for the purpose of making
176.2 eligible loans; and

176.3 (2) enter into an agreement with the commissioner that the commissioner shall fund
176.4 loans that the nonprofit corporation makes to new businesses in the legal cannabis industry.
176.5 The commissioner shall review existing agreements with nonprofit corporations every five
176.6 years and may renew or terminate an agreement based on that review. In making this review,
176.7 the commissioner shall consider, among other criteria, the criteria in paragraph (d).

176.8 Subd. 4. **Loans to businesses.** (a) The criteria in this subdivision apply to loans made
176.9 by nonprofit corporations under the program.

176.10 (b) Loans must be used to support a new business in the legal cannabis industry. Priority
176.11 must be given to loans to businesses owned by individuals who are eligible to be social
176.12 equity applicants and businesses located in communities where long-term residents are
176.13 eligible to be social equity applicants.

176.14 (c) Loans must be made to businesses that are not likely to undertake the project for
176.15 which loans are sought without assistance from the program.

176.16 (d) The minimum state contribution to a loan is \$2,500 and the maximum is either:

176.17 (1) \$50,000; or

176.18 (2) \$150,000, if state contributions are matched by an equal or greater amount of new
176.19 private investment.

176.20 (e) Loan applications given preliminary approval by the nonprofit corporation must be
176.21 forwarded to the commissioner for approval. The commissioner must give final approval
176.22 for each loan made by the nonprofit corporation under the program.

170.4 (f) A cannabis microbusiness that receives a loan may apply to renew the loan. Renewal
 170.5 applications must be made on an annual basis and a cannabis microbusiness may receive
 170.6 loans for up to six consecutive years. A nonprofit corporation may renew a loan to a cannabis
 170.7 microbusiness that is no longer a new business provided the business would otherwise
 170.8 qualify for an initial loan and is in good standing with the nonprofit corporation and the
 170.9 commissioner. A nonprofit corporation may adjust the amount of a renewed loan, or not
 170.10 renew a loan, if the nonprofit corporation determines that the cannabis microbusiness is
 170.11 financially stable and is substantially likely to continue the project for which the loan renewal
 170.12 is sought.

170.13 (g) If a borrower has met lender criteria, including being current with all payments for
 170.14 a minimum of three years, the commissioner may approve either full or partial forgiveness
 170.15 of interest or principal amounts.

170.16 Subd. 5. **Revolving loan account administration.** (a) The commissioner shall establish
 170.17 a minimum interest rate for loans or guarantees to ensure that necessary loan administration
 170.18 costs are covered. The interest rate charged by a nonprofit corporation for a loan under this
 170.19 section must not exceed the Wall Street Journal prime rate. For a loan under this section,
 170.20 the nonprofit corporation may charge a loan origination fee equal to or less than one percent
 170.21 of the loan value. The nonprofit corporation may retain the amount of the origination fee.

170.22 (b) Loan repayment of principal must be paid to the commissioner for deposit in the
 170.23 revolving loan account. Loan interest payments must be deposited in a revolving loan
 170.24 account created by the nonprofit corporation originating the loan being repaid for further
 170.25 distribution or use, consistent with the criteria of this section.

170.26 (c) Administrative expenses of the nonprofit corporations with whom the commissioner
 170.27 enters into agreements, including expenses incurred by a nonprofit corporation in providing
 170.28 financial, technical, managerial, and marketing assistance to a business receiving a loan
 170.29 under this section, are eligible program expenses the commissioner may agree to pay under
 170.30 the grant agreement.

170.31 Subd. 6. **Program outreach.** The commissioner shall make extensive efforts to publicize
 170.32 this program, including through partnerships with community organizations, particularly
 170.33 those organizations located in areas where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity
 170.34 applicants.

171.1 Subd. 7. **Reporting requirements.** (a) A nonprofit corporation that receives a grant
 171.2 shall:

171.3 (1) submit an annual report to the commissioner by February 1 of each year that the
 171.4 nonprofit corporation participates in the program that includes a description of businesses
 171.5 supported by the grant program, an account of loans made during the calendar year, the
 171.6 program's impact on business creation and job creation, particularly in communities where
 171.7 long-term residents are eligible to be social equity applicants, the source and amount of

176.23 (f) A business that receives a loan may apply to renew the loan. Renewal applications
 176.24 must be made on an annual basis and a business may receive loans for up to six consecutive
 176.25 years. A nonprofit corporation may renew a loan to a business that is no longer a new
 176.26 business provided the business would otherwise qualify for an initial loan and is in good
 176.27 standing with the nonprofit corporation and the commissioner. A nonprofit corporation may
 176.28 adjust the amount of a renewed loan, or not renew a loan, if the nonprofit corporation
 176.29 determines that the business is financially stable and is substantially likely to continue the
 176.30 project for which the loan renewal is sought.

176.31 (g) If a borrower has met lender criteria, including being current with all payments for
 176.32 a minimum of three years, the commissioner may approve either full or partial forgiveness
 176.33 of interest or principal amounts.

177.1 Subd. 5. **Revolving loan account administration.** (a) The commissioner shall establish
 177.2 a minimum interest rate for loans or guarantees to ensure that necessary loan administration
 177.3 costs are covered. The interest rate charged by a nonprofit corporation for a loan under this
 177.4 section must not exceed the Wall Street Journal prime rate. For a loan under this section,
 177.5 the nonprofit corporation may charge a loan origination fee equal to or less than one percent
 177.6 of the loan value. The nonprofit corporation may retain the amount of the origination fee.

177.7 (b) Loan repayment of principal must be paid to the commissioner for deposit in the
 177.8 CanStartup revolving loan account. Loan interest payments must be deposited in a revolving
 177.9 loan account created by the nonprofit corporation originating the loan being repaid for
 177.10 further distribution or use, consistent with the criteria of this section.

177.11 (c) Administrative expenses of the nonprofit corporations with whom the commissioner
 177.12 enters into agreements, including expenses incurred by a nonprofit corporation in providing
 177.13 financial, technical, managerial, and marketing assistance to a business receiving a loan
 177.14 under this section, are eligible program expenses the commissioner may agree to pay under
 177.15 the grant agreement.

177.16 Subd. 6. **Program outreach.** The commissioner shall make extensive efforts to publicize
 177.17 this program, including through partnerships with community organizations, particularly
 177.18 those organizations located in areas where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity
 177.19 applicants.

177.20 Subd. 7. **Reporting requirements.** (a) A nonprofit corporation that receives a grant
 177.21 shall:

177.22 (1) submit an annual report to the commissioner by February 1 of each year that the
 177.23 nonprofit corporation participates in the program that includes a description of businesses
 177.24 supported by the grant program, an account of loans made during the calendar year, the
 177.25 program's impact on business creation and job creation, particularly in communities where
 177.26 long-term residents are eligible to be social equity applicants, the source and amount of

171.8 money collected and distributed by the program, the program's assets and liabilities, and an
 171.9 explanation of administrative expenses; and

171.10 (2) provide for an independent annual audit to be performed in accordance with generally
 171.11 accepted accounting practices and auditing standards and submit a copy of each annual
 171.12 audit report to the commissioner.

171.13 (b) By March 1, 2024, and each March 1 thereafter, the commissioner must submit a
 171.14 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees of the house of
 171.15 representatives and the senate having jurisdiction over economic development that details
 171.16 awards given through the CanStartup program and the use of grant money, including any
 171.17 measures of success toward financing new cannabis microbusinesses and creating jobs in
 171.18 communities where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity applicants.

171.19 Sec. 2. [116J.6595] CANNABIS INDUSTRY NAVIGATION GRANTS.

171.20 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner of employment and economic
 171.21 development shall establish CanNavigate, a program to award grants to eligible organizations
 171.22 to help individuals navigate the regulatory structure of the legal cannabis industry.

171.23 Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the
 171.24 meanings given.

171.25 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of employment and economic development.

171.26 (c) "Eligible organization" means any organization capable of helping individuals navigate
 171.27 the regulatory structure of the legal cannabis industry, particularly individuals facing barriers
 171.28 to education or employment, and may include educational institutions, nonprofit
 171.29 organizations, private businesses, community groups, units of local government, or
 171.30 partnerships between different types of organizations.

171.31 (d) "Industry" means the legal cannabis industry in the state of Minnesota.

171.32 (e) "Program" means the CanNavigate grant program.

172.1 (f) "Social equity applicant" means a person who meets the qualification requirements
 172.2 in section 342.16.

172.3 Subd. 3. Grants to organizations. (a) Grant money awarded to eligible organizations
 172.4 may be used for both developing technical assistance resources relevant to the regulatory
 172.5 structure of the legal cannabis industry and for providing technical assistance or navigation
 172.6 services to individuals.

172.7 (b) The commissioner must award grants to eligible organizations through a competitive
 172.8 grant process.

172.9 (c) To receive grant money, an eligible organization must submit a written application
 172.10 to the commissioner, using a form developed by the commissioner, explaining the

177.27 money collected and distributed by the program, the program's assets and liabilities, and an
 177.28 explanation of administrative expenses; and

177.29 (2) provide for an independent annual audit to be performed in accordance with generally
 177.30 accepted accounting practices and auditing standards and submit a copy of each annual
 177.31 audit report to the commissioner.

177.32 (b) By March 1, 2024, and each March 1 thereafter, the commissioner must submit a
 177.33 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees of the house of
 177.34 representatives and the senate having jurisdiction over economic development that details
 178.1 awards given through the CanStartup program and the use of grant money, including any
 178.2 measures of success toward financing new businesses in the legal cannabis industry and
 178.3 creating jobs in communities where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity
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 178.10 meanings given.

178.11 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of employment and economic development.

178.12 (c) "Eligible organization" means any organization capable of helping individuals navigate
 178.13 the regulatory structure of the legal cannabis industry, particularly individuals facing barriers
 178.14 to education or employment, and may include educational institutions, nonprofit
 178.15 organizations, private businesses, community groups, units of local government, or
 178.16 partnerships between different types of organizations.

178.17 (d) "Industry" means the legal cannabis industry in the state of Minnesota.

178.18 (e) "Program" means the CanNavigate grant program.

178.19 (f) "Social equity applicant" means a person who meets the qualification requirements
 178.20 in section 342.15.

178.21 Subd. 3. Grants to organizations. (a) Grant money awarded to eligible organizations
 178.22 may be used for both developing technical assistance resources relevant to the regulatory
 178.23 structure of the legal cannabis industry and for providing technical assistance or navigation
 178.24 services to individuals.

178.25 (b) The commissioner must award grants to eligible organizations through a competitive
 178.26 grant process.

178.27 (c) To receive grant money, an eligible organization must submit a written application
 178.28 to the commissioner, using a form developed by the commissioner, explaining the

172.11 organization's ability to assist individuals in navigating the regulatory structure of the legal
 172.12 cannabis industry, particularly individuals facing barriers to education or employment.

172.13 (d) An eligible organization's grant application must also include:

172.14 (1) a description of the proposed technical assistance or navigation services, including
 172.15 the types of individuals targeted for assistance;

172.16 (2) any evidence of the organization's past success in providing technical assistance or
 172.17 navigation services to individuals, particularly individuals who live in areas where long-term
 172.18 residents are eligible to be social equity applicants;

172.19 (3) an estimate of the cost of providing the technical assistance;

172.20 (4) the sources and amounts of any nonstate money or in-kind contributions that will
 172.21 supplement grant money, including any amounts that individuals will be charged to receive
 172.22 assistance; and

172.23 (5) any additional information requested by the commissioner.

172.24 (e) In awarding grants under this subdivision, the commissioner shall give weight to
 172.25 applications from organizations that demonstrate a history of successful technical assistance
 172.26 or navigation services, particularly for individuals facing barriers to education or employment.
 172.27 The commissioner shall also give weight to applications where the proposed technical
 172.28 assistance will serve areas where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity
 172.29 applicants. To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall fund technical assistance for
 172.30 a variety of sectors in the legal cannabis industry, including both processing and retail
 172.31 sectors.

173.1 Subd. 4. **Program outreach.** The commissioner shall make extensive efforts to publicize
 173.2 these grants, including through partnerships with community organizations, particularly
 173.3 those organizations located in areas where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity
 173.4 applicants.

173.5 Subd. 5. **Reports to the legislature.** By January 15, 2024, and each January 15 thereafter,
 173.6 the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
 173.7 committees of the house of representatives and the senate having jurisdiction over economic
 173.8 development that details awards given through the CanNavigate program and the use of
 173.9 grant money, including any measures of success toward helping individuals navigate the
 173.10 regulatory structure of the legal cannabis industry.

173.11 Sec. 3. **[116L.90] CANNABIS INDUSTRY TRAINING GRANTS.**

173.12 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of employment and economic
 173.13 development shall establish CanTrain, a program to award grants to (1) eligible organizations
 173.14 to train people for work in the legal cannabis industry, and (2) eligible individuals to acquire
 173.15 such training.

178.29 organization's ability to assist individuals in navigating the regulatory structure of the legal
 178.30 cannabis industry, particularly individuals facing barriers to education or employment.

178.31 (d) An eligible organization's grant application must also include:

179.1 (1) a description of the proposed technical assistance or navigation services, including
 179.2 the types of individuals targeted for assistance;

179.3 (2) any evidence of the organization's past success in providing technical assistance or
 179.4 navigation services to individuals, particularly individuals who live in areas where long-term
 179.5 residents are eligible to be social equity applicants;

179.6 (3) an estimate of the cost of providing the technical assistance;

179.7 (4) the sources and amounts of any nonstate money or in-kind contributions that will
 179.8 supplement grant money, including any amounts that individuals will be charged to receive
 179.9 assistance; and

179.10 (5) any additional information requested by the commissioner.

179.11 (e) In awarding grants under this subdivision, the commissioner shall give weight to
 179.12 applications from organizations that demonstrate a history of successful technical assistance
 179.13 or navigation services, particularly for individuals facing barriers to education or employment.
 179.14 The commissioner shall also give weight to applications where the proposed technical
 179.15 assistance will serve areas where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity
 179.16 applicants. To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall fund technical assistance for
 179.17 a variety of sectors in the legal cannabis industry, including both processing and retail
 179.18 sectors.

179.19 Subd. 4. **Program outreach.** The commissioner shall make extensive efforts to publicize
 179.20 these grants, including through partnerships with community organizations, particularly
 179.21 those organizations located in areas where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity
 179.22 applicants.

179.23 Subd. 5. **Reports to the legislature.** By January 15, 2024, and each January 15 thereafter,
 179.24 the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
 179.25 committees of the house of representatives and the senate having jurisdiction over economic
 179.26 development that details awards given through the CanNavigate program and the use of
 179.27 grant money, including any measures of success toward helping individuals navigate the
 179.28 regulatory structure of the legal cannabis industry.

179.29 Sec. 3. **[116L.90] CANNABIS INDUSTRY TRAINING GRANTS.**

179.30 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of employment and economic
 179.31 development shall establish CanTrain, a program to award grants to (1) eligible organizations
 179.32 to train people for work in the legal cannabis industry, and (2) eligible individuals to acquire
 179.33 such training.

173.16 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the
173.17 meanings given.

173.18 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of employment and economic development.

173.19 (c) "Eligible organization" means any organization capable of providing training relevant
173.20 to the legal cannabis industry, particularly for individuals facing barriers to education or
173.21 employment, and may include educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, private
173.22 businesses, community groups, units of local government, or partnerships between different
173.23 types of organizations.

173.24 (d) "Eligible individual" means a Minnesota resident who is 21 years old or older.

173.25 (e) "Industry" means the legal cannabis industry in Minnesota.

173.26 (f) "Program" means the CanTrain grant program.

173.27 (g) "Social equity applicant" means a person who meets the qualification requirements
173.28 in section 342.16.

173.29 Subd. 3. **Grants to organizations.** (a) Grant money awarded to eligible organizations
173.30 may be used for both developing a training program relevant to the legal cannabis industry
173.31 and for providing such training to individuals.

174.1 (b) The commissioner must award grants to eligible organizations through a competitive
174.2 grant process.

174.3 (c) To receive grant money, an eligible organization must submit a written application
174.4 to the commissioner, using a form developed by the commissioner, explaining the
174.5 organization's ability to train individuals for successful careers in the legal cannabis industry,
174.6 particularly individuals facing barriers to education or employment.

174.7 (d) An eligible organization's grant application must also include:

174.8 (1) a description of the proposed training;

174.9 (2) an analysis of the degree of demand in the legal cannabis industry for the skills gained
174.10 through the proposed training;

174.11 (3) any evidence of the organization's past success in training individuals for successful
174.12 careers, particularly in new or emerging industries;

174.13 (4) an estimate of the cost of providing the proposed training;

174.14 (5) the sources and amounts of any nonstate funds or in-kind contributions that will
174.15 supplement grant money, including any amounts that individuals will be charged to
174.16 participate in the training; and

174.17 (6) any additional information requested by the commissioner.

180.1 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the
180.2 meanings given.

180.3 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of employment and economic development.

180.4 (c) "Eligible organization" means any organization capable of providing training relevant
180.5 to the legal cannabis industry, particularly for individuals facing barriers to education or
180.6 employment, and may include educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, private
180.7 businesses, community groups, units of local government, or partnerships between different
180.8 types of organizations.

180.9 (d) "Eligible individual" means a Minnesota resident who is 21 years old or older.

180.10 (e) "Industry" means the legal cannabis industry in Minnesota.

180.11 (f) "Program" means the CanTrain grant program.

180.12 (g) "Social equity applicant" means a person who meets the qualification requirements
180.13 in section 342.15.

180.14 Subd. 3. **Grants to organizations.** (a) Grant money awarded to eligible organizations
180.15 may be used for both developing a training program relevant to the legal cannabis industry
180.16 and for providing such training to individuals.

180.17 (b) The commissioner must award grants to eligible organizations through a competitive
180.18 grant process.

180.19 (c) To receive grant money, an eligible organization must submit a written application
180.20 to the commissioner, using a form developed by the commissioner, explaining the
180.21 organization's ability to train individuals for successful careers in the legal cannabis industry,
180.22 particularly individuals facing barriers to education or employment.

180.23 (d) An eligible organization's grant application must also include:

180.24 (1) a description of the proposed training;

180.25 (2) an analysis of the degree of demand in the legal cannabis industry for the skills gained
180.26 through the proposed training;

180.27 (3) any evidence of the organization's past success in training individuals for successful
180.28 careers, particularly in new or emerging industries;

180.29 (4) an estimate of the cost of providing the proposed training;

181.1 (5) the sources and amounts of any nonstate funds or in-kind contributions that will
181.2 supplement grant money, including any amounts that individuals will be charged to
181.3 participate in the training; and

181.4 (6) any additional information requested by the commissioner.

174.18 (e) In awarding grants under this subdivision, the commissioner shall give weight to
174.19 applications from organizations that demonstrate a history of successful career training,
174.20 particularly for individuals facing barriers to education or employment. The commissioner
174.21 shall also give weight to applications where the proposed training will:

174.22 (1) result in an industry-relevant credential; or

174.23 (2) include opportunities for hands-on or on-site experience in the industry.

174.24 The commissioner shall fund training for a broad range of careers in the legal cannabis
174.25 industry, including both potential business owners and employees and for work in the
174.26 growing, processing, and retail sectors of the legal cannabis industry.

174.27 Subd. 4. **Grants to individuals.** (a) The commissioner shall award grants of \$..... to
174.28 eligible individuals to pursue a training program relevant to a career in the legal cannabis
174.29 industry.

174.30 (b) To receive grant money, an eligible individual must submit a written application to
174.31 the commissioner, using a form developed by the commissioner, identifying a training
175.1 program relevant to the legal cannabis industry and the estimated cost of completing that
175.2 training. The application must also indicate whether:

175.3 (1) the applicant is eligible to be a social equity applicant;

175.4 (2) the proposed training program results in an industry-relevant credential; and

175.5 (3) the proposed training program includes opportunities for hands-on or on-site
175.6 experience in the industry.

175.7 The commissioner shall attempt to make the application process simple for individuals to
175.8 complete, such as by publishing lists of industry-relevant training programs along with the
175.9 training program's estimated cost of completing the training programs and whether the
175.10 training programs will result in an industry-relevant credential or include opportunities for
175.11 hands-on or on-site experience in the legal cannabis industry.

175.12 (c) The commissioner must award grants to eligible individuals through a lottery process.
175.13 Applicants who have filed complete applications by the deadline set by the commissioner
175.14 shall receive one entry in the lottery, plus one additional entry for each of the following:

175.15 (1) being eligible to be a social equity applicant;

175.16 (2) seeking to enroll in a training program that results in an industry-relevant credential;
175.17 and

175.18 (3) seeking to enroll in a training program that includes opportunities for hands-on or
175.19 on-site experience in the industry.

175.20 (d) Grant money awarded to eligible individuals shall be used to pay the costs of enrolling
175.21 in a training program relevant to the legal cannabis industry, including tuition, fees, and

181.5 (e) In awarding grants under this subdivision, the commissioner shall give weight to
181.6 applications from organizations that demonstrate a history of successful career training,
181.7 particularly for individuals facing barriers to education or employment. The commissioner
181.8 shall also give weight to applications where the proposed training will:

181.9 (1) result in an industry-relevant credential; or

181.10 (2) include opportunities for hands-on or on-site experience in the industry.

181.11 The commissioner shall fund training for a broad range of careers in the legal cannabis
181.12 industry, including both potential business owners and employees and for work in the
181.13 growing, processing, and retail sectors of the legal cannabis industry.

181.14 Subd. 4. **Grants to individuals.** (a) The commissioner shall award grants of up to
181.15 \$20,000 to eligible individuals to pursue a training program relevant to a career in the legal
181.16 cannabis industry.

181.17 (b) To receive grant money, an eligible individual must submit a written application to
181.18 the commissioner, using a form developed by the commissioner, identifying a training
181.19 program relevant to the legal cannabis industry and the estimated cost of completing that
181.20 training. The application must also indicate whether:

181.21 (1) the applicant is eligible to be a social equity applicant;

181.22 (2) the proposed training program results in an industry-relevant credential; and

181.23 (3) the proposed training program includes opportunities for hands-on or on-site
181.24 experience in the industry.

181.25 The commissioner shall attempt to make the application process simple for individuals to
181.26 complete, such as by publishing lists of industry-relevant training programs along with the
181.27 training program's estimated cost of completing the training programs and whether the
181.28 training programs will result in an industry-relevant credential or include opportunities for
181.29 hands-on or on-site experience in the legal cannabis industry.

181.30 (c) The commissioner must award grants to eligible individuals through a lottery process.
181.31 Applicants who have filed complete applications by the deadline set by the commissioner
181.32 shall receive one entry in the lottery, plus one additional entry for each of the following:

182.1 (1) being eligible to be a social equity applicant;

182.2 (2) seeking to enroll in a training program that results in an industry-relevant credential;
182.3 and

182.4 (3) seeking to enroll in a training program that includes opportunities for hands-on or
182.5 on-site experience in the industry.

182.6 (d) Grant money awarded to eligible individuals shall be used to pay the costs of enrolling
182.7 in a training program relevant to the legal cannabis industry, including tuition, fees, and

175.22 materials costs. Grant money may also be used to remove external barriers to attending such
175.23 a training program, such as the cost of child care, transportation, or other expenses approved
175.24 by the commissioner.

175.25 Subd. 5. **Program outreach.** The commissioner shall make extensive efforts to publicize
175.26 these grants, including through partnerships with community organizations, particularly
175.27 those organizations located in areas where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity
175.28 applicants.

175.29 Subd. 6. **Reports to the legislature.** By January 15, 2024, and each January 15 thereafter,
175.30 the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
175.31 committees of the house of representatives and the senate having jurisdiction over workforce
175.32 development that describes awards given through the CanTrain program and the use of
176.1 grant money, including any measures of success toward training people for successful
176.2 careers in the legal cannabis industry.

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